

Royston
Urban District Council.

REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE YEAR 1921.

ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1921

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

The Report this year is drawn up on lines required by the Ministry of Health. There is to be a fuller report every five years, and in the interval a short one every year in a form prescribed by the Ministry.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres), 1002 $\frac{3}{4}$.

Population (Census), 3826.

Number of inhabited houses, 999.

Rateable value, £15,897.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £66.

VITAL STATISTICS.

These are calculated on a population of 3780 persons. The mid-year population, according to the Registrar-General.

		Male.	Female.	
Birthis.	Legitimate ..	32	14	} Total, 48.
	Illegitimate ..		2	

This gives a birth rate of 12·7.

Deaths	24	26	Total, 50.
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This gives a death rate of 13·2.

		Male.	Female.
Deaths of infants under one year	Legitimate	1	2
	Illegitimate		1

Total, 4. This gives an infant mortality of 83·3 per 1000 births.

Compared with last year the birth rate is lower, the infant mortality rate is slightly higher, and the general death-rate is the same. It is not satisfactory that the birth-rate should be less than the death-rate.

Coming now to the analysis of deaths. There were no deaths from measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, or diphtheria. There was one death from encephalitis lethargica, 3 from tuberculosis of the lungs, and 1 from tuberculosis of other organs. There were

5 deaths from malignant disease and 1 from anthrax. There was no death from child birth or from septic poisoning.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

During the year the following diseases were notified:—

Scarlet fever	..	..	..	6
Tuberculosis of the lungs	..	..	3	
Tuberculosis of other organs	..	4		
Erysipelas	..	..	..	3
Encephalitis lethargica	..	..	1	
Malaria	..	..	..	1

On the whole there has been little epidemic disease, especially compared with many other districts. Scarlet fever never became epidemic, though isolated cases occurred.

The Council provides antitoxin and pays for the examination of swabs if necessary. Cases of infectious disease are always removed to Hospital at once if possible, but if a case of diphtheria occurred and the Hospital had scarlet fever in it, the case would have to go to Cambridge.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following report has been prepared by Mr. Witte, the Sanitary Inspector:—

Complaints received	..	..	..	28
Nuisance detected without complaint	..	..	44	
Nuisances abated	..	..	..	72
Notices	{ Preliminary letters	..	..	17
	{ Statutory letters	..	..	2
Cottages inspected	..	..	..	290
Bakehouses inspected	..	..	..	4
Slaughter-houses inspected	..	..	..	4
Dairies and milkshops inspected	..	..	6	
Cowsheds inspected	..	..	..	5
Workshops inspected	..	..	..	53
Houses disinfected	..	..	..	9
Overcrowding abated	..	..	..	2
Houses placed in habitable repair	..	..	2	
Houses connected with main sewer	..	..	20	
Houses connected with water main	..	..	20	
W.C.'s repaired	..	..	..	3
Animals improperly kept removed	..	..	3	
Travellers' vans visited	..	..	..	30

During the year 20 new houses have been built, all under the Council's Housing Scheme.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

During the year 178 children were examined, and the following defects were found:—

Unclean	23
Malnutrition	17
Defective teeth	86
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids	78
Unvaccinated	79
Defective eyesight	17
Tuberculosis	2
Rickets	3
Other defects	54

I am still hoping that, with the progress of the Council's Housing Scheme and better home conditions, the health and statistics of Royston will improve.

Yours faithfully,

NORMAN MACFADYEN,

Medical Officer of Health.